for establishment in the Zone, which include 4 recently approved projects, with a tctal estimated investment of Rs. 205 crores and projected exports of Rs. 1708 crores over a period of 5 years from the commencement of commercial operations.

(c) to (e) : As developed area is currently available for allotment to units in Phase-I, the development of Phase II in VEPZ will be considered at the appropriate time.

Exchange Rate of Rupee

458. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI V.V. RAGHVAN:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the real effective exchange rate of the rupee against the U.S. dollar has appreciated by 7 to 8 per cent in the last one year or so;

(b) whether this is the principal reason for a fall in India's export;

(c) if so, whether any steps are being taken to make the rupee reflect its real effective exchange rate;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The bilateral real exchange rate of the rupee against the US dollar is estimated to have appreciated by about 2 per cent in October 1997 compared with the level in October, 1996.

(b) The slowdown in export growth in recent periods could be attributed, *inter alia*, to the decline in world trade coupled with sluggishness in manufacturing goods prices in the global market, variation in cross currency exchange rates and deceleration in domestic industrial activities.

(c) to (e) The exchange rate of the rupee is determined by the market forces of demand and supply. The exchange rate developments are monitored continuously and measures are taken, as and when necessary, to maintain orderly market conditions as well as to ensure that the exchange rate of the rupee remains consistent with economic fundamentals.

Demand and Supply of Cements

459. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand and supply of cement .in the country;

(b) whether the Government have identified cement as an "extreme focus" item for export; and

(c) the total cement exported during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The year-wise consumption and production of cement in the last 3 years is as under :—

(In Million tonnes)

Year	Production	Consumption
1994–95	62.35	60.67
1995–96	69.63	68.07
1996–97	76.22	74.39

(b) Yes, Sir,.

(c) The total export of cement and clinker during the last two years is as under:—

Year	*Export of Cement & Clinker* (In Million tonnes)
1995–96	2.4
1996–97	2.7

Bilateral Trade with Spain

460. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand bilateral trade with Spain;

(b) if so, the areas identified to expand trade between both the countries; and

(c) the details of expansion programme drawn up for 1997–98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) It is Government's endeavour to expand bilateral trade with all trading partners, including Spain.

(b) The areas identified include marine products, computer software, electronic and engineering goods, mining products, leather and sports goods, marble and granite, coffee, tea, carpets, silk, agro-items, processed food and chemicals etc.

(c) The meetings of Indo-Spanish Joint Commission and Indo-Spanish Joint Business Council were held in May, 1997 in Madrid where the measures to expand bilateral trade and economic cooperation were identified which included exchange of trade delegations, participation in international trade fairs and dissemination of literature on India in Spain. Both the official and business delegations also visited Bilbao, a major port in

North Spain and explored possibilities of establishing trade and industrial links with the entrepreneurs of that region. In October 1997, Government of Spain staged a massive industrial and investment fair in New Delhi called the EXPOTECNIA at Pragati Maidan which was meant to show-case Spanish industry and invite investment from India into Spain. As a result of these activities, trade is expected to diversity and increase significantly in the coming years.

Loan Released by NABARD

461. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan released by the nationalised and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development during the 1994–95, 1995–96 and 1996–97 in agricultural sector in the country, State-wise; and

(b) State-wise ratio with all India loan released during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Loan to SC/ST Under PMRY

462 SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SCs/STs entrepreneurs provided loans in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh, under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during each of the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the loans provided during the above period is below the target fixed during the above period; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna (PMRY) guidelines provide for reservation of 22.5% to SC/ST borrowers. The state-wise details of loans granted by banks under the scheme during the last three years are given in Statements I, II and III attached.

The share of SC/ST borrowers in the scheme both in Uttar Pradesh and at the national level has been between 9.7% and 13.6% during the last three years. RBI has reported that sponsoring agencies are not getting sufficient number of applications from eligible SC/ST borrowers. Further, various studies conducted by RBI regarding implementation of PMRY indicate that SC/ST borrowers prefer salaried employment in Government/Semi-Government institutions to the risk prone self-employment ventures under the PMRY scheme.

Statement-I

PMRY PROGRAMME YEAR — 1994-95

Report showing position for year ended 31st March 1995

(Rs. Lakhs)

Name of Bank:		All Scheduled Commercial Banks				
Name of the State/ Union Torritory	Target	Total loans sanctioned		Loans sanctioned to SC/ ST out of total loan		
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount	% of Col. 5 to 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Andhra Pradesh	25000	18356	10429.02	2841	1369.40	11.4
2. Arunachal Pradesh	250	159	98.30	34	31.20	13.6
3. Assam	6600	5582	4209.90	887	596.72	13.4
4. Bihar	22150	11364	8407.80	1940	989.21	8.8
5. Gujarat	8500	5775	2409.35	667	280.19	7.8